United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1608
23 March 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends mandate of UNMIH until 30 June; asks Secretary-General to report to it when conditions in Haiti might permit deployment for purposes consistent with Governors Island Agreement.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, expresses deep regret at Kabul food blockade; calls for end to fighting in Afghanistan so as to permit deliveries of humanitarian aid.

+ Observer for Palestine calls for speedy deployment of international presence to protect Palestinians in occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

+ ONUSAL says elections in El Salvador on Sunday were conducted in peace and liberty, despite some anomalies; early vote count indicates run-off for Presidency between ARENA and FMLN-CD-MNR coalition.

+ International Civilian Mission denounces reported use of rape in campaign of political violence and terror in Haiti; calls on Haitian Armed Forces and courts to deal with violations of women's rights.

+ Democratic People's Republic of Korea says it permitted all necessary IAEA inspections of its facilities, as agreed to in Vienna; alleges Agency is being manipulated by United States in attempt to strangle People's Republic, and warns of "resolute countermeasures."

+ UNEP reports that 45 countries -- 30 in sub-Saharan Africa -- had low levels of food security between 1991 and 1993; says many could increase agricultural production sharply.

+ Copenhagen Amendment to 1987 Montreal Protocol on Ozone Layer to enter into force on 14 June, having been ratified by 20 States.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) until 30 June, and asked the Secretary-General to

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report to it when conditions might permit deployment of the Mission for purposes consistent with paragraph 5 of the Governors Island Agreement. That paragraph called for assistance to modernize the Haitian Armed Forces and to establish a new police force with the presence of United Nations personnel. The Council also asked the Secretary-General to make recommendations on the Mission's composition and the scope of its activities within previously-established overall personnel levels. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 905 (1994).

The Council said it was deeply disturbed by the continued obstruction to the dispatch of UNMIH, and by the failure of the Haitian Armed Forces to allow the Mission to begin its work. It stressed the continuing importance of the Governors Island Agreement for the return of peace and democracy in Haiti, including the provisions of paragraph 5.

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The Security Council today expressed deep regret at the continuing food blockade imposed on Kabul and called for an immediate end to the fighting in Afghanistan, which was obstructing deliveries of humanitarian aid. In a statement read out by its President, Jean-Bernard Merimee (France), the Council said the humanitarian aid that had so far been provided had not substantially alleviated the plight of hundreds of thousands of the capital's residents. The Council expressed its appreciation to the countries in the region for facilitating efforts to provide humanitarian aid within Afghanistan and called on the international community to extend such aid urgently.

The Council stressed the importance of full compliance with all aspects of humanitarian law and recalled that those who violated that law bore individual responsibility for their actions. It also welcomed the Secretary-General's appointment of a special mission to Afghanistan to seek the views of a broad spectrum of Afghan leaders on how the United Nations could best aid national reconciliation and reconstruction. The Council said it supported the mission, which would leave Geneva soon, and urged all Afghans to assist it and thus promote an end to hostilities, the resumption of humanitarian aid deliveries and the restoration of peace in Afghanistan.

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M. Nasser Al-Kidwa, observer for Palestine, today called for the speedy deployment of an international presence, under the auspices of the United Nations, to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. Citing the recent massacre of Palestinian worshippers in Hebron, he told the Palestinian Rights Committee that the Palestinians in the territories needed security and protection now, as well as during the transitional period.

The United States position on the reference to Jerusalem in Security Council resolution 904 (1994) was a step backward from its previous stance,

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Mr. Al-Kidwa went on to say. He expressed hope that the United States would take a balanced political position which would enable it to play its natural role as one of the two guarantors of the peace process.

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The United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) today announced that Sunday's elections had been conducted in peace and liberty, and that a final vote count had begun last night in the presence of United Nations observers. Preliminary tallies indicated that the National Republican ALliance (ARENA) and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN)-Convergencia Democratica (CD)-Movimiento Nacional Revolucionario (MNR) coalition, with 49.26 and 25.29 per cent of the vote respectively, would face a run-off election for President.

ONUSAL went on to say that it had called on the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) to rectify some anomalies, including the late opening of voting tables, overcrowding and slow voting, and the exclusion of at least 25,000 citizens with valid voting cards from the Electoral Register. However, ONUSAL expressed confidence that the next President, the political parties and the Salvadorian people would work together for the full implementation of all pending accords.

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The United Nations/Organization of American States (OAS) Joint International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) has denounced the reported use of rape as part of a campaign of political violence and terror in that country. The Mission said that although it was difficult to hear testimony because of the private nature of such crimes, observers were now investigating a dozen cases committed in the last month.

Most of the rapes had been committed in working class neighbourhoods of Port-au-Prince, and the victims were often close relatives of political and trade union militants, according to the Mission. The perpetrators were generally unidentified armed civilians, but several victims had recognized their attackers as members of the Haitian Armed Forces or of the Front Révolutionnaire pour l'avancement et le progrès haïtien (FRAPH).

The Mission condemned rapes committed by persons whose duty it was to maintain public order, or by members of FRAPH. It called on the Haitian Armed Forces to bring the perpetrators to trial and demanded that the country's courts deal appropriately with such violations of women's rights.

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The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has told the Security Council that it has allowed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to conduct all inspections necessary to ensure that nuclear material are not being diverted from its nuclear facilities In a letter to the Council dated 21 March, the People's Republic said the recent IAEA inspection of those

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facilities was for the purpose of maintaining the continuity of safeguards, as agreed to in Vienna last month. However, the IAEA had violated that agreement by claiming that the inspection was being conducted under the nuclear Safeguards Agreement.

The letter contended that the IAEA inspection team had made unreasonable and unjust demands and had issued threats, whereas the People's Republic had demonstrated good will through its flexibility. It also alleged that the IAEA was being manipulated by the United States in an attempt to strangle the People's Republic. If the IAEA wanted to resolve the issue, it should rescind its unreasonable assessment regarding the recent inspection.

The People's Republic went on to warn that if the IAEA tried to provoke it with further pressure, it would have no other alternative but to respond with "resolute countermeasures."

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Many countries with critically low food security could increase their food production dramatically, according to the first comprehensive index on the subject compiled by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The study, which was produced for the FAO's Committee on World Food Security, revealed that 45 countries -- 30 of them in sub-Saharan Africa -- had low levels of food security between 1991 and 1993. The FAO said almost half the developing countries it had studied could produce, in total, twice as much of the main food crops as they needed.

In an address to the Committee in Rome yesterday, FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf said the best way to tackle chronic food insecurity was to increase agricultural productivity, especially in low-income countries. He paid tribute to the international community's generous and timely response to food shortages caused by civil war, and asked for similar measures in cases of natural disasters.

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The Copenhagen Amendment to the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer has now been ratified by 20 States and will enter into force on 14 June, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Amendment adds new ozone-depleting substances to the list of controlled substances covered by the Montreal Protocol, which has been ratified by 132 States. The original Protocol and its 1990 London Amendment identified 15 chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), three halons, carbon tetrachloride and methyl chloroform as ozone-depleting substances and provided schedules for their phasing-out. However, the Scientific Assessment Panel reported in 1991 that ozone depletion was worse than anticipated, so the Parties to the Protocol adopted the Copenhagen Amendment the following year.

UNEP Executive Director Elizabeth Dowdeswell said yesterday that the Montreal Protocol had been successful because it was an ongoing process that relied on periodic scientific, economic and technological assessments. UNEP

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coordinates international efforts to protect the ozone layer, and provides an Ozone Secretariat to service meetings and analyse information on ozone-depleting substances.

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DH/1609
24 March 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General welcomes Declaration of National Reconciliation signed today by Somali political leaders in Nairobi; pledges United Nations support for restoration of peace and stability in Somalia.

+ General Assembly adopts three resolutions authorizing Secretary-General to commit $200 million a month to maintain UNPROFOR, UNOSOM II and ONUMOZ.

+ Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks hears proposals for legally binding instrument to enforce high seas fisheries management.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the signing today of the Declaration of National Reconciliation by Somali political leaders meeting in Nairobi. The Secretary-General congratulated them for showing wisdom and political maturity during the negotiations, which were held under the auspices of the United Nations. He urged the leaders to fully implement the commitments undertaken in the Declaration and pledged the full support of the United Nations in helping the Somali people achieve peace and stability.

The Declaration contains a number of general principles covering, among other things, the repudiation of violence as a means of resolving conflicts, the implementation of a cease-fire and voluntary disarmament throughout Somalia. Under the specific terms of the Declaration, the political leaders agreed to restore peace throughout the country, particularly in areas where conflict continued. The factions which signed the Addis Ababa Peace Agreement and the Somali National Movement (SNM) will meet on 15 April to discuss the establishment of a Legislative Assembly after the formation of a national Government. In order to restore the sovereignty of the Somali State, a National Reconciliation Conference will be convened on 15 May to elect a President and Vice-Presidents, and to appoint a Prime Minister.

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For information media--not an official record

The General Assembly today adopted three resolutions authorizing the Secretary-General to commit nearly $200 million a month to maintain three United Nations peace-keeping operations. The Secretary-General could commit over $95 million to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) from 1 April to 31 July; more than $77 million to the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) for four months from 1 June; and nearly $26 million for the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) for three months from 1 May. The Assembly took those actions, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary).

The Assembly also adopted a text requesting the Board of Auditors to conduct a special audit of all aspects of the procurement for peace-keeping and observer missions. By the terms of another text, it decided to consider all administrative and budgetary aspect of peace-keeping operations by next May.

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A legally binding instrument to enforce measures for high seas fisheries management was favoured by many countries yesterday at the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Several representatives said such an instrument would be the logical outcome of the Conference. The Argentinian representative said it should be given the same binding, global character as conventions on the ozone layer and biodiversity. Regional arrangements had failed to implement effective conservation and management, he continued. Only a legally binding instrument with a dispute-settlement mechanism could be effective against those pillaging marine resources.

Other delegates said they were flexible about the final outcome of the Conference and were optimistic that it would improve international fisheries cooperation. The United States said some delegates were opting for a General Assembly resolution which would be adaptable to various situations but which would have less sway around the world than a binding instrument.

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DH/1610
25 March 1994

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ UNOSOM II expected to remain at full strength, as troop contributions by Indonesia and Pakistan offset withdrawals by other States; last United States troops leave Somalia today.

+ IAEA Director-General expresses concern about possible plutonium stocks in Democratic People's Republic of Korea, after inspection team refused access at Nyongbyon facility; hopes situation can be resolved through negotiations, without use of sanctions.

+ Head of Secretary-General's special mission to Afghanistan says international community wants to be engaged in peace process, but success will depend on Afghans themselves.

+ Special Envoy for Haiti condemns harassment of International Civilian Mission observers, and Haitian military's failure to take preventive action.

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The United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) is expected to have a troop strength of 19,225 by the end of May -- the limit recommended by the Secretary-General -- and will continue to carry out its mission, according to a United Nations spokesman. Noting that the United States contingent had completed its withdrawal from Somalia today, he said the Operation's current troop strength was 19,098.

Saudi Arabia, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates would also withdraw troops from Somalia next month, but they were expected to be replaced by additional forces from Indonesia and Pakistan, the spokesman added.

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The Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix, yesterday expressed concern about the amount of plutonium the Democratic People's Republic of Korea might have, and whether it was producing more. He told correspondents at Headquarters that IAEA inspectors had

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For information media--not an official record

recently been refused permission to fully inspect a radiochemical laboratory at Nyongbyon, and thus could not determine if it had been used to separate plutonium from spent nuclear fuel. He made those comments after briefing the Security Council earlier in the day.

Mr. Blix noted that the IAEA had never said that the People's Republic was actually producing nuclear weapons. The Agency was concerned about the issue of plutonium, which was a crucial element in the production of such weapons. He said that the IAEA had concluded a clear-cut inspection agreement with the People's Republic in Vienna last month, and that there were no good reasons for the lack of cooperation at Nyongbyon. He added that while the situation was serious, he hoped it could be resolved through negotiations, without recourse to sanctions.

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The head of the Secretary-General's special mission to Afghanistan, Mahmoud Mestiri, today reiterated that the international community was dedicated to promoting a peace process in that country. However, he told correspondents in Geneva the international community could not resolve the situation -- success would depend on the Afghans themselves. The Secretary-General appointed the mission last week to seek the views of a broad spectrum of Afghan leaders on how the United Nations can best aid national reconciliation and reconstruction in Afghanistan.

Mr. Mestiri, who will leave tomorrow for Islamabad, said he had already met in New York with representatives of the Government of Afghanistan and other Afghan personalities, and with representatives of the United States, the Russian Federation, Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia -- the "Friends of Afghanistan." There appeared to be a consensus that the special mission should try to reestablish a political process in the country. It might transform itself into a mission of negotiation if a rapprochement could be achieved, he continued, although the immediate task was to establish the facts and to let the parties express their positions publicly.

The Afghan people had had enough of war, and it was clear that no one party could achieve victory through force of arms, Mr. Mestiri went on to say. He noted that the reestablishment of a stable and independent Afghanistan was in the interests of other countries in the region.

* * *

The Special Envoy of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of America States for Haiti, Dante Caputo, today stongly condemned the harassment of observers from the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH). He said a small group of observers visiting the town of Hinche on Wednesday had been harrassed by civilians who appeared to be members of the Front Révolutionnaire pour l'avancement et le progrès haïtien (FRAPH). Mr. Caputo said he was particularly outraged as Haitian military personnel had been present at the time and had done nothing to prevent those "serious incidents."

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1611
28 March 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in resolution adopted on Friday, extends UNOMIG mandate until 30 June; urges Georgian and Abkhaz sides to resume negotiations so that it might consider deploying peace-keeping force.

+ UNHCR protests Thailand's return of 25,000 refugees to Cambodia in manner contrary to international humanitarian principles and practices.

+ Fifth Committe approves three draft resolutions by which General Assembly would authorize Secretary-General to commit up to $10.4 million per month for UNAVEM II, ONUSAL and UNCMIL.

+ Special Commission on disarmament of Iraq says crowd attacked one of its helicopters during medical evacuation in Mosul.

+ Secretary-General congratulates President Gaviria of Colombia on his selection as new Secretary-General of OAS.

+ Enrique ter Horst, Venezuelan national, appointed as Secretary-General's Special Representative in El Salvador and Chief of Mission of ONUSAL.

+ Secretary-General appoints Rosario Green, Mexican national, as Assistant Secretary-General in Department of Political Affairs.

* * *

The Security Council decided on Friday evening to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) until 30 June, and urged the Georgian and Abkhaz sides to resume negotiations for a political settlement so that it might consider establishing a peace-keeping force there. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 906 (1994), in which it asked the Secretary-General to report by 21 June on any progress in the negotiations. The report should address the situation on the ground, with special attention to circumstances that might warrant a peace-keeping force and on the modalities for such a force.

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For information media--not an official record

The Council also called once more on all concerned to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia. It stressed the right of all refugees and displaced persons to return safely to their homes throughout Abkhazia.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, today strongly protested Thailand's repatriation of some 25,000 Cambodian refugees, who had been granted asylum after fleeing fighting in western Cambodia. In a letter addressed to the Thai Foreign Minister, Mrs. Ogata took strong exception to the decision to return the Cambodians before arrangements for their safety had been made. She feared that their lives might be at risk given the state of insecurity in western Cambodia. Neither the UNHCR nor other international organizations have access to the areas where the refugees were returned.

Mrs. Ogata noted that the return of the refugees had been carried out while the UNHCR office in Bangkok was consulting with the Royal Thai Government, offering to provide assistance and to arrange a repatriation when possible. She stressed that the refugees had been returned in a manner contrary to internationally accepted humanitarian principles and practices.

* * *

Acting without a vote, the Fifth Committe (Administrative and Budgetary) today approved draft resolutions by which the General Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General to commit up to $10.4 million gross per month for three United Nations peace-keeping missions. The Secretary-General could commit almost $2.1 million for the Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) for four months beginning June; nearly $3.9 million for the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) from 1 June to 15 September; and $4.4 million for the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL), for three months beyond 21 April 1994.

* * *

The Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq has reported that one of its helicopters was attacked by a crowd during a medical evacuation operation in Mosul yesterday. The helicopter was evacuating two United Nations Guards suffering from gunshot wounds after an earlier ambush. The crowd threw stones at the aircraft, damaging its rotor blades and fuselage and smashing three windows.

The Special Commission noted that the Iraqi authorities had been informed of the operation and had consented to it. However, Iraqi military personnel at the site of the incident had failed to protect the helicopter. The Iraqi Government is required to ensure the safety and security of Special Commission personnel and property.

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On Friday, the Special Commission reported that its Chemical Destruction Group had completed the destruction of Iraq's declared and recovered stockpile of chemical warfare agents. It said some 400,000 litres of sulphur mustard -- a blister agent which damages the lungs -- and large quantities of chemical munitions, nerve agents and precursor chemicals had been destroyed at the Muthanna site.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today congratulated President César Gaviria of Colombia on his selection as the new Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS). He said he was pleased that the OAS had been able to agree rapidly on a successor for outgoing Secretary-General Joao Clemente Baena Soares.

Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali also expressed confidence that cooperation between the United Nations and the OAS would flourish under President Gaviria's leadership.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to appoint Enrique ter Horst as his Special Representative in El Salvador and Chief of Mission of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), effective 1 April. Mr. ter Horst's appointment will be at the level of Assistant Secretary-General. He previously served as an Assistant Secretary-General in the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation.

Mr. ter Horst, a Venezuelan national who holds the rank of Ambassador in his country's Foreign Service, will succeed Augusto Ramírez-Ocampo, who will relinquish his post on 31 March, following the general elections in El Salvador.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today appointed Rosario Green, a Mexican national, as Assistant Secretary-General in the Department of Political Affairs. Ms. Green will report to Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding.

Prior to her current appointment, Ms. Green was Under-Secretary for Latin America, Cultural Affairs and International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. She has also served as the Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission and as Executive Director for Mexico on the Commission on the Future of Mexico/United States Relations.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1612
29 March 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council says Identification Commission should begin identifying and registering potential voters in Western Sahara by 30 June, with view to holding referendum by end of 1994; says it will reconsider MINURSO's future if vote cannot take place by then.

+ Special Representative Akashi says there is "light at the end of the tunnel" after almost two years of fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina; warns that UNPROFOR needs extra resources to capitalize on progress.

+ Under-Secretary-General Annan says Member States must "stay the course" in peace-keeping operations, warning that disengagement in face of danger undermines principle of collective security.

+ Population Commission hears calls from United States and China for action to address root causes of refugee movements; Russian Federation cites ethnic conflict as major cause of growing refugee problem.

+ Guatemalan Government and URNG sign Agreement on Human Rights asking Secretary-General for creation of international verification mission.

+ Secretary-General appoints Major-General Mohammad Abdus Salam of Bangladesh as Force Commander of ONUMOZ.

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The Security Council today welcomed the Secretary-General's compromise proposal concerning the interpretation and application of criteria to determine voter eligibility for participation in the referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. The Council also agreed to the course of action outlined in Option B of his recent report on Western Sahara, whereby the Identification Commission should analyse all applications received and proceed to identify and register potential voters by 30 June. That work would be carried out on the basis of the Secretary-General's proposal, the Identification Commission's terms of reference, and the Settlement Plan.

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For information media--not an official record

In unanimously adopting resolution 907 (1994), the Council said it supported the Secretary-General's continued efforts to obtain the cooperation of both parties. It asked him to report by 15 July on progress in the Identification Commission's work, and on other matters relevant to the fulfilment of the Settlement Plan, with a view to deciding on whatever action was necessary to fulfil the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

The Council urged strict compliance with the Secretary-General's timetable for Option B, with a view to holding the referendum by the end of 1994. It called on the parties to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General, his Special Representative and the Identification Commission. The Council said that if the referendum could not be held by the end of the year, it would reconsider MINURSO's future, including an examination of options for its mandate and operations.

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Yasushi Akashi, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, said today there was "light at the end of the tunnel" after more than 22 months of intense fighting throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. He told correspondents at Headquarters that people were walking around without fear of snipers or shelling in Sarajevo and Mostar, and that public services were being restored in the capital. Mr. Akashi was in New York in connection with Security Council deliberations on the renewal of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) mandate. In his recent report to the Council, the Secretary-General recommened that the mandate be extended for twelve months beyond 31 March.

Mr. Akashi went on to say that the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina was still far from stable despite recent progress, with reports of an organized offensive being launched in Maglaj and Bihac. Southern Croatia was also tense and talks on a possible cease-fire there were being held at the Russian embassy in Zagreb. He said there had been a generally encouraging response to appeals for troop reinforcements, but additional resources were needed if UNPROFOR was to capitalize on recent positive developments.

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Under-Secretary-General Kofi Annan said yesterday that Member States must stay the course when participating in peace-keeping operations if those operations are to be successful. Addressing the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations as it began its current session, he warned that disengagement by States in the face of danger would undermine the principle of collective security.

Mr. Annan urged States to provide the required resources for peace-keeping operations, and to meet their financial obligations in a timely manner. States should also encourage informed debate on their participation in an operation, as unfavourable public reaction to casualties might otherwise lead them to pull out of the operation. He stressed that unity of command was

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essential for operational effectiveness, and noted that the Secretariat made every effort to keep troop contributors fully apprised of the situation on the ground.

* * *

The United Nations Population Commission yesterday heard concern expressed about the rising numbers of refugees and asylum seekers worldwide. It also heard calls from the United States and China for action to address the root causes of refugee movements. According to the Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, the number of refugees worldwide grew from 8.5 million to 19 million between 1985 and 1993.

The representative of the Russian Federation said that inter-ethnic conflict was a major cause of the increase in refugees. While Russia was observing international norms regarding refugees entering its territory, it could not keep its doors open because of its economic difficulties, he warned. The Dutch representative said admission policies should be implemented in accordance with internationally accepted principles, with all refugees treated equally. International migration could only be controlled by international agreements, he added.

The Commission is currently meeting at Headquarters to review United Nations implementation of the 1974 World Population Conference and the 1984 International Conference on Population.

* * *

The Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaría Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) today signed two agreements and a joint statement at a ceremony in Mexico City, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Agreement on Human Rights -- the outcome of two years of negotiations -- included a request to the Secretary-General for the early establishment of an international verification mission.

The second agreement provided a timetable for further talks, to culminate with the signing of a final peace agreement at the end of this year, the spokesman continued. The parties also signed a joint statement on further negotiations on the issue of human rights violations during the armed conflict.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Major-General Mohammad Abdus Salam of Bangladesh as Force Commander of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ), with effect from 23 March. The new Commander, who has already arrived in Maputo, replaces Major-General Lélio Rodrigues Gonçalves da Silva of Brazil.

Prior to his new appointment, Major-General Abdus Salam served as Chief of General Staff of the Bangladesh Army. He began his military career in 1965.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1613
30 March 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ International observers in South Africa deplore violence and loss of life in Johannesburg on Monday, saying inadequate planning contributed to tragedy; call on political leaders to find solution to crisis.

+ Secretary-General appoints William Eagleton, United States national, as Special Coordinator for Sarajevo.

+ United Nations launches consolidated inter-agency appeal for $53.3 million to provide humanitarian aid to Burundi.

+ Speakers in Fifth Committee stress importance of proper funding for International Tribunal on war crimes committed in former Yugoslavia.

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The international observer missions of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Commonwealth and the European Union have deplored the violence and loss of life in Johannesburg on Monday, saying the tragedy could have been prevented. The failure to plan adequately for the march that day and to take steps for effective crowd control contributed to the violence, they said.

The missions called for South Africa's political leaders to exercise reason and responsibility and to carry the message of peace and democracy throughout the country. The failure of those leaders and the security forces to act together to prevent a senseless slaughter was inexcusable, they said. The missions also expressed concern over the use of "war talk", threats and challenges, saying such language threatened South Africa's very future.

Violence undermined the work of the Independent Electoral Commission, which was already straining to prepare for next month's elections, the missions went on to say. They called on President F.W. De Klerk, Nelson Mandela and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who were meeting today, to find a way out of the present crisis and to create conditions for a peaceful transition.

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For information media--not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to appoint William L. Eagleton, a United States national, as the Special Coordinator for Sarajevo. The Security Council, in resolution 900 (1994), recently called for the appointment of a civilian official to draw up an overall assessment and plan of action for the restoration of essential public services in the Bosnian capital.

Prior to his new appointment, Mr. Eagleton was Deputy Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). He previously served as United States Ambassador to Syria, and as Chief of the United States Interests Section in Baghdad.

* * *

The United Nations today launched a consolidated inter-agency appeal for $53.3 million to provide humanitarian assistance to Burundi between now and August. More than a million people have been affected by violence, destruction and massive population movements following last year's abortive coup and the assassination of the country's President.

Some 700,000 refugees fled Burundi for the neighbouring countries of Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire, according to a United Nations spokesman. However, despite outbreaks of violence in the last few days, over 70 per cent of the remaining refugee population and the vast majority of internally displaced persons are expected to return to their homes in the next six months.

* * *

The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) met today to discuss the financing of the International Tribunal for the prosecution of war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia. Commenting on reports of the Secretary-General and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), the Australian representative urged the General Assembly to formally provide for the apportionment of the Tribunal's expenses. He warned that failure to do so could give the impression that the international community was not committed to the work of the Tribunal.

Sweden, on behalf of the Nordic countries, said it was critically important that the Assembly ensure the functioning of the Tribunal, while the United States and Japan urged that it be funded from the United Nations regular budget.

The ACABQ recommended that the Secretary-General be authorized to enter into further commitments of up to $11 million through 31 December for the operation of the Tribunal. Such authority would be inclusive of an existing spending authority of $5.6 million.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1614
31 March 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Citing need to consolidate recent progress in former Yugoslavia, Security Council extends UNPROFOR mandate to 30 September; authorizes increase of up to 3,500 troops in Force's strength, and says it will act on further needs by 30 April.

+ Secretary-General leaves New York for visit to Europe; will meet tomorrow in Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister.

+ IAEA says international safety levels are not being met at Chernobyl nuclear power plant; Ukraine welcomes proposal for international meeting to discuss matter.

+ Secretary-General of UNCTAD concludes term of office.

+ Vladimir Petrovsky confirmed as Secretary-General of Conference on Disarmament.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) until 30 September. It also authorized an increase in UNPROFOR's strength of up to 3,500 troops, and said it would act by 30 April on the further troop needs recommended by the Secretary-General, to give the Force the means necessary to implement its mandate. In unanimously adopting resolution 908 (1994), the Council stressed that a strong and viable UNPROFOR was needed to consolidate recent progress in the former Yugoslavia.

The resolution approved UNPROFOR's plans for the reopening of Tuzla airport for humanitarian purposes and authorized the additional resources requested by the Secretary-General for that purpose. It called on Member States to assist him by contributing personnel, equipment and training. The Council also endorsed the Secretary-General's proposals on arrangements regarding the cease-fire and freedom of movement in Sarajevo.

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The Council said that Member States, acting nationally or through regional organizations, could take, under the authority of the Secretary-General and in coordination with UNPROFOR, all necessary measures to extend close air support to Croatian territory, in defence of UNPROFOR personnel. It urged Croatia and the local Serb authorities in the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) to comply with the cease-fire agreement concluded yesterday, and urged all parties to cooperate with UNPROFOR in reaching an agreement on confidence-building measures. The Council also demanded that the Bosnian Serb party end all military operations against Maglaj. Noting the Secretary-General's assessment of the feasibility of extending the safe area concept to the town, it asked him to keep the situation there under review.

The Council urged the parties in the former Yugoslavia to seize the opportunity provided by UNPROFOR's continuation to conclude the peace process successfully. It went on to say that it would reconsider the Force's mandate at any time according to developments on the ground and in negotiations at the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today left New York for Moscow, the first stop on his visit to Europe. The Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev tomorrow, and with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Monday, according to a United Nations spokesman.

The Secretary-General will leave the Russian Federation on Tuesday for Belarus, the spokesman went on to say. Among his other appointments next week, the Secretary-General is expected to meet in Geneva with Lakhdar Brahimi, his Special Representative for Zaire, to discuss the situation in that country.

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International safety levels are not being met at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). An inspection team organized by the Agency earlier this month found numerous safety deficiencies in the plant's two operational units, including design problems in Unit 1, poor working conditions, a loss of skilled personnel and limited procurement of up-to-date equipment. Another major problem was the accelerated deterioration of the shelter enclosing the destroyed Unit 4 reactor.

Ukraine agreed to the inspection after deciding last October to postpone closure of the plant. The country's President, Leonid Kravchuk, yesterday thanked the team for its work, describing the results as a significant input to the objective evaluation of the Chernobyl plant's safety level. He also welcomed a suggestion by IAEA Director-General Hans Blix that Ukraine convene an international meeting to consider how to alleviate the problems in the plant. The Agency anticipates that the meeting will take place in Vienna in the second half of April.

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The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Kenneth Dadzie, today left the service of the United Nations at the end of his term of office. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said he had accepted Mr. Dadzie's decision with great regret, describing him as an outstanding international civil servant who had demonstrated the highest intellectual and diplomatic skills and deepest dedication to the Organization.

Mr. Dadzie has been Secretary-General of UNCTAD since 1986, and previously served as Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation. He joined the United Nations in 1963.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today confirmed the appointment of Vladimir Petrovsky, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, as Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and as his Personal Representative to the Conference. Mr. Petrovsky has carried out those responsibilities on an interim basis since last December, and will continue to do so concurrently with his responsibility as Director-General of the Geneva Office.

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The Council asked the People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea to renew discussions on the implementation of the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. It also appealed to Member States to continue their dialogue with the People's Republic. The Council said it would consider the matter further if necessary, to achieve full implementation of the safeguards agreement between the IAEA and the People's Republic.

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Continuing his five-day official visit to the Russian Federation, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today met with President Boris Yeltsin at the Kremlin, according to a United Nations spokesman, who described the meeting as very positive and constructive. They discussed peace-keeping operations and the Organization's financial crisis, nuclear disarmament, the situations in Georgia and Tajikistan, and the matter of the Baltic States.

This morning, the Secretary-General attended a ceremony for the signing of a Declaration on Measures for a Political Settlement of the Georgian/Abkhaz Conflict, and an Agreement on the Voluntary Return of Refugees and Displaced Persons. The ceremony was chaired by his Special Representative for Georgia, Eduard Brunner.

On Friday, the Secretary-General met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev. He expressed his appreciation for the Russian Federation's active diplomatic role, particularly in the search for a peaceful settlement in the former Yugoslavia, and expressed the hope that the progress there would be sustained. He also thanked the Russian Government for its readiness to provide additional troops for peace-keeping operations.

The Secretary-General is being accompanied on his visit by Vladimir Petrovsky, Director of the United Nations Office in Geneva; Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs; and Yves Bertholet, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) for 6 months. In a report dated 30 March, he said the Mission was needed to support implementation of the Arusha Peace Agreement and to assist in coordinating humanitarian activities in Rwanda.

However, the Secretary-General noted that progress in implementing the Arusha Agreement had been slow, and that a transitional Government and National Assembly had not been established by the target date of 5 January. He urged the Rwandese Government and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) to make a determined effort to reach agreement on the matter, and said a compromise was possible. He said he was encouraged that the parties had maintained the process of dialogue, despite increasing tension.

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The Secretary-General went on to say that the Council should review the United Nations role in Rwanda if the transitional institutions had not been set up in the next two months and if there had been insufficient progress in implementing the Arusha Agreement.

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The International Conference on Population and Development must act to reduce high infant, child and maternal mortality levels, especially maternal deaths caused by abortion, Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund and Secretary-General of the Conference, told its Preparatory Committee today. Introducing a draft programme of action, she said the Conference must address the issue of population growth as well as living conditions. The Committee is meeting at Headquarters for the next three weeks to prepare for the Conference, which will be held in Cairo in September.

Algeria, speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China, said population policy should be primarily the responsibility of individual States, in consideration of differences of culture and religion. Greece, on behalf of the European Union, said universal access to reproductive health services and family planning programmes should be guaranteed. Population policies should be neither coercive nor discriminatory and should fully respect human rights.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has urged the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to make every effort to reach a compromise settlement at peace talks in Lusaka. In a progress report to the Security Council dated 31 March, he noted that the talks had stalled on the issue of UNITA's participation in State affairs. However, he said issues relating to national reconciliation could be resolved if approached with realism and the necessary political will, and pointed out that the parties had already reached agreement on 12 of the 18 relevant points to be discussed.

The Secretary-General reiterated that it would be necessary to strengthen the United Nations presence in Angola as soon as a comprehensive peace agreement had been reached. He stressed that UNAVEM II would need adequate and timely financial resources in order to consolidate the agreement at its initial and most critical stage. He urged the Angolan parties to heed the Council's demands for restraint on the ground and an end to all military actions so as to promote trust and confidence in Lusaka.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) airlift to Sarajevo today surpassed the 100,000-metric-ton mark with the arrival of a Canadian C-130 cargo plane. The airlift, which is coordinated by the UNHCR and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), has provided the city's

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380,000 residents with food and medical supplies for more than 21 months, surpassing the 1948-1949 Berlin airlift in duration.

Military aircraft from six countries and aircraft from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Kingdom's Overseas Development Administration are currently taking part in the airlift.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1616
5 April 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNAMIR mandate until 29 July; urges Government of Rwanda and Rwandese Patriotic Front to resolve their differences without delay, with view to implementing Arusha Peace Agreement.

+ Fifth Committee approves drafts which would authorize Secretary-General to commit $110 million to various peace-keeping operations, and $1.1 million for office of Special Coordinator in occupied Palestinian territories.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says package of confidence-building measures for Cyprus and recent revised ideas offer real benefits to both Cypriot parties.

+ Security Council Committee on sanctions against former Yugoslavia approves border crossing point between Albania and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for freight vehicles.

+ Secretary-General appoints Benny Widyono as Special Representative for Cambodia for initial period of six months.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) until 29 July. The Council said it would review the situation there, including the role of the United Nations, within six weeks, if the transitional institutions provided for in the Arusha Peace Agreement had not been established and insufficient progress had been made for implementation of phase II of the Secretary-General's 1993 plan. It urged the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) to resolve their differences without delay, with a view to implementing the Agreement. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 909 (1994).

The Council also welcomed the fact that the cease-fire in Rwanda had been respected despite the difficulties in implementing the Arusha Agreement, and

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commended UNAMIR for its essential contribution in that respect. However, it recalled that support for the Mission, including the provision of an extra 45 civilian police monitors as described in the Secretary-General's recent report, would depend on full and prompt implementation of the Agreement.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) yesterday approved draft resolutions by which the General Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General to commit some $110 million to finance several peace-keeping operations. The Secretary-General could commit $9 million gross per month for the United Nations Assistance Mission to Rwanda (UNAMIR) from 5 April to 31 October; $24 million for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) from 1 April to 31 May; $5.4 million for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the same period; $600,000 for the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), also for that period; and $16.4 million for the United Nations peace-keeping support account for the period 1 January to 30 June.

The Committee also approved drafts that would have the Assembly appropriate $144,000 for the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) from 23 March to 30 June, and $3.6 million for the special account of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR) from 22 June to 21 December. By another draft, the Secretary-General could commit more than $1.14 million for posts in the office of the United Nations Special Coordinator in occupied Palestinian territories from 1 April to 31 December 1995, on the understanding that the Coordinator would be at the level of Assistant Secretary-General.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has reiterated that the package of confidence-building measures presented to the two parties in Cyprus, combined with revised ideas put forward last month, offers real benefits to both. The package includes the reopening of the fenced area of Varosha and of Nicosia International Airport.

In a report on his mission of good offices in Cyprus dated 4 April, the Secretary-General said the Turkish Cypriot side had objected to the revised ideas, stating that changes from the wording of the package favoured the Greek Cypriot side. The Turkish Cypriot side had objected in particular to proposals on security of access between the United Nations-controlled buffer zone and Varosha, traffic arrangements at Nicosia Airport, the implementation schedule for the package, and the collection of customs duties by the United Nations. The Greek Cypriot side had said that it did not like many of the changes, but that it would accept the proposals if the Turkish Cypriot side would do likewise. The Secretary-General went on to say that he and his representatives would continue high-level contacts with the parties in order to secure an agreement.

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The Security Council Committee on sanctions against the former Yugoslavia has approved a border crossing point for freight vehicles travelling between Albania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Vehicles will be allowed to cross the border at Hani i Hotit if in accordance with relevant Council resolutions and the Committee's Revised Consolidated Guidelines.

The Committee has already approved road and rail border crossing points between the Federal Republic and Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

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Following a request by the Royal Government of Cambodia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Benny Widyono as his Special Representative for that country. The appointment, which became effective on 28 March, is for an initial period of six months. Mr. Widyono previously served as Chief of the Regional Commissions New York Office.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1617
6 April 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ UNPROFOR to begin talks tomorrow with Commanders of Bosnian Armed Forces and Bosnian Serb Army with view to cease-fire; Special Representative Akashi urges parties to build on recent peace progress; United Nations observers report attacks against Gorazde have ceased.

+ Secretary-General, on second day of Belarus visit, meets with President Grib and Prime Minister Kebich; promises continuing United Nations support in coping with consequences of Chernobyl disaster.

+ United Nations expresses concern about recent attacks on foreigners in northern Iraq; Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs to review situation with United States, United Kingdom and France tomorrow.

+ United Nations launches inter-agency appeal for $38 million to aid 600,000 refugees in Tajikistan through December.

+ Equitable economic development is best guarantee for international peace and security, speakers tell Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations.

+ Democratic People's Republic of Korea says it will accept negotiated solution to nuclear issue if United States ends international campaign against it, alleging "war provocation moves."

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The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, General Michael Rose, will begin talks tomorrow with the Commanders of the Bosnian Armed Forces and the Bosnian Serb Army in the hope of establishing a cease-fire along the confrontation lines between the two sides. The Secretary-General's Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, gave instructions for the talks to begin after positive meetings earlier today with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and Bosnian Serbs leader Radovan Karadzic.

Mr. Akashi said the talks would allow the Bosnian parties to build on the peace progress achieved in recent weeks, according to a United Nations

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spokesman. He called on them to seize the opportunity to end the conflict which their people had endured for the last two years.

In a related development, United Nations military observers today reported that Gorazde was no longer under attack, and Mr. Akashi received assurances from the Bosnian Serbs that military action against the town would not resume.

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Continuing his official visit to Belarus, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today had meetings with President Miacheslav Grib, Prime Minister Viacheslav Kebich, and Vice-Prime Minister Ivan Kenik. Among the issues discussed during the meetings were the continuing effects of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster and the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to promote nuclear safety, according to a United Nations spokesman. President Grib recalled that Belarus had renounced nuclear weapons and had acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as a non-nuclear State. The Secretary-General assured the President that the United Nations would continue to do its utmost to assist Belarus in coping with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

On arriving in Belarus from the Russian Federation yesterday, the Secretary-General met with Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka. They discussed, among other issues, the reform and strengthening of the United Nations, disarmament, peace-keeping operations, and cooperation between Belarus and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The Secretary-General then met with the Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Ivan Korotchenya, and congratulated him on the Commonwealth's attainment of observer status in the General Assembly.

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The United Nations is extremely concerned about the increasing number of attacks on foreigners in northern Iraq, and about the effect on its operations in the area, a spokesman for the Organization said today. Two United Nations guards were attacked yesterday, and one -- a Danish national -- was shot in the chest and seriously wounded. On Sunday, an Agence France Presse correspondent and her bodyguard were killed by gunmen in an incident which Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has deplored. Late last month, a helicopter was damaged by a mob while evacuating two United Nations guards suffering from gunshot wounds received in an earlier ambush.

The spokesman noted that the mandate of the United Nations guards had been clearly outlined in a memorandum of understanding signed with Iraq. It included supporting the humanitarian programme in the north of the country and protecting United Nations and non-governmental organization personnel there. Peter Hansen, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, was following developments very closely, and would meet tomorrow with the Permanent Missions of the United States, United Kingdom and France to discuss the situation, the spokesman added.

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The United Nations today launched a consolidated inter-agency appeal for $37.8 million to aid some 600,000 refugees and displaced people in Tajikistan between now and December. The crisis there was caused by internal strife following the break-up of the Soviet Union. Relative calm has since been restored, but deteriorating economic and social conditions remain a problem, according to a United Nations spokesman. Immediate action is needed not only to stop further suffering in Tajikistan, but also to prevent the crisis from affecting neighbouring States.

United Nations agencies, working closely with non-governmental organizations, will aid the reconstruction of destroyed homes and provide food and medicine to refugees in Tajikistan. The spokesman noted that the United Kingdom had already announced a contribution of $1.5 million towards the appeal.

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Equitable economic development is the best guarantee for international peace and security, several speakers told the Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations yesterday. The Committee is meeting at Headquarters to conduct a comprehensive review of those operations. Speakers also urged that the United Nations balance its focus on peace-keeping with a corresponding emphasis on development programmes.

The Cuban observer expressed concern that some peace-keeping operations were being extended year after year. He said conflicts would contiune unless development was promoted, and warned that the United Nations would be involved in an arms build-up that would erode its credibility. The Russian representative stressed the need for integration between the Organization and regional and subregional organizations. He called for the creation of a capable and efficient system of collective security, with global and regional levels strengthening each other.

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The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has said that if the United States ends the "international pressure campaign" against it, it will not oppose a negotiated solution to the ongoing nuclear issue. In a letter to the Security Council dated 4 April, containing comments by a Foreign Ministry spokesman, the People's Republic accused the United States of making "war provocation moves" against it. The United States did not want to resolve the issue through negotiations, it said, vowing to counter any pressure "to the end."

The People's Republic contended that it was not obliged to accept a full inspection of its facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) pursuant to the nuclear Safeguards Agreement. The country also claimed a unique status after the temporary suspension of its declared withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). It said it had

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agreed to last month's IAEA inspection only to maintain continuity of safeguards, and had honestly discharged its obligations. The letter went on to say that the Security Council should not argue about the People's Republic, which was the victim in the case, but should argue about the United States, which was the assaulter.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1618
7 April 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement last night, condemns military attacks by Bosnian Serb forces against safe area of Gorazde; deplores reports of ethnic cleansing in Banja Luka and Prijedor and calls on all parties to respect safe areas.

+ Secretary-General expresses grief at deaths of Presidents of Burundi and Rwanda in Kigali air crash; three United Nations observers killed in city.

+ Secretary-General condemns attack on passenger bus in Israeli town of Afula; says outrageous incident should not be allowed to impede negotiations between Israeli Government and PLO.

+ Concluding visit to Belarus, Secretary-General departs for Geneva; tells Minsk Academy that world cannot afford to write off United Nations because of new threats in wake of cold war.

+ Security Council should extend UNIKOM mandate for one year to help maintain stability on Iraq-Kuwait border, Secretary-General says.

+ Secretary-General extends mandate of Special Envoy for Tajikistan for three months to assist forthcoming national reconciliation talks.

+ Secretary-General appoints ten members of Council of University for Peace.

+ Human Rights Committee to eliminate summaries of debate on States' reports from annual report to General Assembly.

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The Security Council has strongly condemned military attacks by Bosnian Serb forces against the safe area of Gorazde. It demanded an immediate end to attacks against the city and called on all parties to respect safe areas. In a statement read out by its President, Colin Keating (New Zealand) last night, the Council also deplored reported acts of ethnic cleansing in Banja Luka and

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For information media--not an official record

Prijedor. It reaffirmed that the International Tribunal established under resolution 827 (1993) would investigate such crimes and try persons accused of committing them. It further stressed the importance of full compliance with international humanitarian law throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Council welcomed the strengthening of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Gorazde amd the impending visit of the Force Commander for Bosnia and Herzegovina to assess the situation in the city. It called for a negotiated resolution of the conflict, an immediate cease-fire, the cessation of hostilities and an exchange of prisoners.

Also last night, the Council President expressed profound sorrow at the deaths yesterday of Cyprien Ntaryamira, President of Burundi, and Major-General Juvénal Habyarimana, President of Rwanda. He noted that the Presidents had lost their lives tragically while pursuing efforts to restore peace to their countries.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed profound grief at the deaths of President Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi and President Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda in an air crash in Kigali last night. In a statement issued in Belarus yesterday, he said he had conveyed his condolences to the families of the Presidents and to the peoples of the two countries.

The Secretary-General said he had instructed his Special Representative in Rwanda and the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) to provide all possible assistance to the authorities in their efforts to establish the facts in the deaths of the two Presidents.

A United Nations spokesman today announced that three United Nations military observers from Belgium had been killed in unrest in Kigali, and described the situation in the city as confused and dangerous. The Secretary-General's Special Representative and the Chief Military Observer in Rwanda were attempting to form a peace committee involving the parties and the security forces with a view to restoring order, he added. Meanwhile, the situation in Burundi was said to be relatively quiet and calm.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has strongly condemned yesterday's attack on a passenger bus in the Israeli town of Afula, in which several civilians were killed and dozens, including young children, were wounded. The Secretary-General extended his condolences to the bereaved families, and expressed hope that the outrageous attack would not be allowed to impede the ongoing negotiations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today concluded his official visit to Belarus and departed for Geneva, where he was scheduled to meet with the High Commissioner for Human Rights. According to a United Nations spokesman, they will discuss sending a mission of good will to help solve the problems of minorities in the Baltic States. The Secretary-General had earlier considered the question of the region's minorities with the Governments of Belarus and the Russian Federation, the spokesman noted.

Addressing the Academy of Sciences in Minsk yesterday, the Secretary-General said the United Nations had become a victim of "an excess of credibility" after the end of the cold war. Those high expectations had given way to disillusionment, but the world could not afford to write off the Organization. The challenge was to adapt to new threats while retaining the solidarity of the United Nations system.

International peace and security were still in constant danger, but State sovereignty was threatened not so much by superpowers from without, as by troubles from within, the Secretary-General told the Academy. He stressed that those threats could not be met without a clear framework of international cooperation. With the priceless asset of the Charter, its universal membership, and its unique experience and connections, the United Nations was the only global instrument to solve global problems, he concluded.

* * *

The Security Council should extend the mandate of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) for one year, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Council dated 4 April, he said the Mission helped to maintain stability in the demilitarized zone along the Iraq-Kuwait border, noting that tension persisted and that full peace had not been restored in the area.

The Secretary-General said the relocation of Iraqi nationals and their assets to their country had resolved the main issue arising from the demarcation of the Iraq-Kuwait boundary. He called on the two States to ensure the safety of United Nations personnel and to prevent any violations of the demilitarized zone.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has extended the mandate of his Special Envoy for Tajikistan for three months to the end of June in order to help the Tajik Government and opposition resolve their differences. In a report to the Security Council dated 4 April, he said it would also be necessary to extend the mandate of a small group of United Nations officials in the country to support the Envoy's activities.

The Secretary-General welcomed the decision of the Tajik parties to begin a political dialogue on national reconciliation. He said he had instructed

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his Special Envoy to invite the parties to a first round of talks to be held in Moscow. He had also added a new provision to his Envoy's mandate, at the request of the parties concerned, to provide good offices during the talks.

The Secretary-General stressed that the Tajik people now had a chance to close a tragic chapter in their history and to prevent further bloodshed. He would recommend that the Council respond positively to any reasonable request for appropriate international monitoring mechanisms, he added.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today announced the appointment of ten members of the Council of the University for Peace. They are: Grace Alele Williams (Nigeria); Hans Dietrich Genscher (Germany); Cyrus Vance (United States); Dharma Kumar (India); Enrique Iglesias (Uruguay); Francis Deng (Sudan); Alfonso Escamez (Spain); Javier Pérez de Cuéllar (Peru); Thierry de Montbrial (France); and Georges Abi-Saab (Egypt).

The University for Peace, located in Costa Rica, was established by the General Assembly in 1979 as a specialized international institution for post-graduate studies, research and dissemination of knowledge specifically aimed at training for peace.

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The Human Rights Committee yesterday decided to eliminate summaries of its consideration of States parties' reports from its annual report to the General Assembly. Expert members agreed that eliminating the summaries would help focus attention on the Committee's comments and recommendations, speed up publication and ease the burden on the Secretariat.

The Committee also approved a recommendation that the report include a more comprehensive and systematic version of its comments. Summary records should be produced promptly and made more widely available to the media and States parties, it decided.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1619
8 April 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement last night, condemns violence in Rwanda after deaths of Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi; urges Rwandese security forces to prevent attacks on United Nations personnel.

+ Security Council, also last night, calls on Salvadorian authorities to correct shortcomings in recent elections so that next round of voting reflects will of people.

+ Secretary-General, in Geneva, condemns Rwanda violence, particularly deaths of country's Prime Minister and 10 Belgian peace-keepers; will report urgently to Security Council on measures to protect United Nations personnel.

+ Secretary-General meets with senior United Nations officials to discuss situations in Mozambique, Angola, South Africa and Zaire; to meet tomorrow with Special Representative for former Yugoslavia.

+ Member States owe United Nations $2.9 billion as of 31 March; $1.1 billion owed to regular budget and $1.8 billion to peace-keeping.

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The Security Council last night strongly condemned the violence in Rwanda after the tragic deaths on Wednesday of the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi. Expressing regret at the incident, it noted the heavy loss of life, including the death of Government leaders, civilians and at least 10 Belgian peace-keepers with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rawanda (UNAMIR).

In a statement read out by its President, Colin Keating (New Zealand), the Council strongly condemned the perpetrators of those acts who, it said, must be held responsible. It urged the Rwandese security forces to put an end to the attacks on United Nations personnel and to cooperate with UNAMIR in the implementation of its mandate. The Council demanded that security be restored throughout the country, particularly in Kigali and the demilitarized zone.

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For information media--not an official record

The Council also demanded that free access to the airport be restored, and urged respect for the safety and security of civilians and foreigners, including United Nations personnel. It appealed to all Rwandese not to commit further violence, and to maintain the positions they held before the deaths of the Presidents.

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In another meeting last night, the Security Council called on the authorities in El Salvador to correct shortcomings in last month's elections in order to guarantee that the next round of voting on 24 April reflects the will of the people. In a statement read out by its President, Colin Keating (New Zealand), the Council called for recommendations in the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) to be implemented.

The Secretary-General's recommendations included increasing the number of polling centres, particularly in urban areas, and improving the training of electoral personnel. He also called for the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to deny publicity to organizations that were not political parties. Pointing out "serious flaws in the methods used", the Secretary-General recommended that various aspects of the Tribunal's functioning be reconsidered.

The Council called for full implementation of the 1992 Peace Accords. It said progress was needed regarding the provisions on public security and the constitutional reforms recommended by the Commission on the Truth, especially reform of the judiciary. The Council urged that delays be avoided and distortions corrected so that the Peace Accords could be implemented and the goals of the peace process achieved.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today strongly condemned the latest acts of violence in Rwanda, particularly the deaths of Prime Minister Agatha Uwilingiyimana and 10 Belgian soldiers with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). The Secretary-General, who was in Geneva, also expressed his condolences to the families of the soldiers and to the Belgian Government and people.

The Secretary-General has been in contact with all the parties concerned and with his Special Representative in Kigali, and has asked him to take all possible steps to ensure security throughout the country and especially in Kigali. The Secretary-General is preparing an urgent report to the Security Council on measures needed to protect United Nations personnel in Rwanda.

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Continuing his visit to Geneva, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros today met with Carlos Alzamora, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Compensation Committee. According to a United Nations, they reviewed the Commission's work and the current state of compensation payments relating to

(more)

Iraq and Kuwait. The Secretary-General then met with his Senior Political Advisor Ismat Kittani, who had just returned from a visit to Mozambique. Mr. Kittani had reminded the parties in that country of the importance of holding elections no later than next October.

The Secretary-General also met with his Special Representative for Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye, who updated him on the peace talks between the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in Lusaka. The Secretary-General expressed concern that the talks be concluded rapidly. He then met with his Special Representative for South Africa and Zaire, Lakhdar Brahimi. They discussed the upcoming South African elections and the United Nations role in them.

Tomorrow, the Secretary-General will meet with his Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi. Mr. Akashi will also have meetings with the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata.

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As of 31 March, Member States owed the United Nations a total of $2.9 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, $1.1 billion was for assessments for the regular budget and $1.8 billion was for peace-keeping operations.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed almost $300 million to the regular budget, and almost $440 million to the peace-keeping budget, for the current year; it owed more than $230 million and $100 million respectively for prior years. Japan, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom all had regular budget contributions outstanding for the current year, but not for previous years. However, the Russian Federation owed a total of $545 million in peace-keeping contributions.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1620
11 April 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in Geneva, reiterates readiness to use air power again after NATO aircraft bomb Bosnian Serbs attacking safe area of Gorazde.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement on Friday, expresses support for deployment of 50 extra observers in Georgia; stresses need for progress on political settlement so that it can consider possible establishment of peace-keeping force in Abkhazia.

+ United Nations evacuates 250 civilian staff and dependents from Rwanda as violence continues after death of President Habyarimana last week.

+ Secretary-General welcomes calm in Burundi following death of President Ntaryamira.

+ Secretary-General, addressing Habitat II Preparatory Committee, calls for global mobilization of resources to make cities sustainable, healthy and affordable.

+ Fifth Commitee approves drafts by which General Assembly would authorize Secretary-General to commit nearly $90 million to finance UNPROFOR, MINURSO and International Tribunal for former Yugoslavia.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today reiterated that he would not hesitate to use close air support again to protect safe areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Yesterday and again today, at the request of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), aircraft belonging to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) bombed Bosnian Serbs attacking the safe area of Gorazde. Those actions came after the Secretary-General called on all parties to return to the positions they held before the recent fighting in Gorazde. He said he had instructed UNPROFOR to use all available means as authorized by the Security Council to attain that objective.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

The Secretary-General, who was continuing his visit to Geneva today, urged all parties to continue dialogue with a view to ending the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He expressed hope that peace talks would resume soon, either in that country or under the aegis of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

Yesterday's NATO attack was requested by UNPROFOR after its observers in Gorazde were endangered by Serb shelling, and approved by the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Yasushi Akashi. Describing the action as an "ice breaker," a United Nations spokesman said that the Force Commander of UNPROFOR, General Bertrand de Sauville de Lapresle, retained the authority to use air support again and that subsequent approval would not be needed.

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The Security Council has expressed support for the deployment of an extra 50 military observers with the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) if the Secretary-General considers that conditions on the ground are appropriate. In a statement read out by its President, Colin Keating (New Zealand), on Friday evening, the Council stressed the need for progress on a political settlement in the next round of talks between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, so that it might consider establishing a peace-keeping force in Abkhazia, Georgia.

The Council called on the parties to observe the cease-fire and other commitments under the 4 April Declaration on measures for a political settlement of the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict. It also called on them to honour the Quadripartite Agreement on the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons, which was signed the same day. The Council further called on the parties to use the current constructive atmosphere to solve other key issues of the settlement.

The Council welcomed the conclusion of the third round of talks between the two sides, carried out under the aegis of the United Nations, with the assistance of the Russian Federation as facilitator. It also welcomed the efforts by the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy towards a comprehensive political settlement in Abkhazia, Georgia.

* * *

The United Nations has evacuated 250 civilian staff and dependents from Rwanda because of the civil strife there following the death of the country's President, Juvénal Habyarimana, in an air crash at Kigali on 6 April. There were reports of a major battle between the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) and Government forces in the city, and tremendous loss of life across the country, although no reliable casualty figures were available, according to a United Nations spokesman.

Some 5,000 Rwandese citizens were seeking refuge from the violence in United Nations-controlled facilities, the spokesman noted. Meanwhile, the

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Secretary-General's Special Representative for Burundi and the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) have urged the parties to resume dialogue and to agree on a cease-fire.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today welcomed a report by his Special Representative for Burundi, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, that the situation in the country had remained calm since the death of President Cyprien Ntaryamira on 6 April. The Secretary-General said he was very pleased that Burundi's leaders were working together and that its people had shown exemplary restraint at such a tragic time. They could count on the full support of the United Nations in their efforts to set up an interim arrangement, he added.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Preparatory Fact-finding Mission to Burundi, which has been in the country since 22 March, is continuing its work, according to its Chairman, Simeon Ake. The Mission is due to return to New York on 21 April to report to the Secretary-General, after consultations with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today called for a global mobilization of resources to make the world's cities sustainable, safe, healthy, humane and affordable. Addressing the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Geneva, he said the challenge of sustainable development was a challenge of urban settlements.

The Secretary-General said the global exodus to cities had led to urban poverty, less housing and fewer services, unemployment and disaffection among youth. In the inner cities especially, ethnic tension, violence, substance abuse and social disintegration were on the rise. The emergence of mega-cities had brought land degradation, traffic congestion and air, water and noise pollution. While non-governmental organizations and local communities could help tackle those problems, States bore the main responsibility for the development of their peoples. He called on the international community to cooperate on a global plan of action to sustain life and work in urban environments at the 1996 "City Summit."

* * *

The Fifth Commitee (Administrative and Budgetary) on Friday approved draft resolutions by which the General Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General to commit some $90 million to finance two United Nations missions and the International War Crimes Tribunal. By one draft, the Secretary-General could commit nearly $16 million gross a month to the United

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Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), from 1 April to 31 July. That amount would cover the costs of the 3,660 extra military personnel authorized by Security Council resolution 908 (1994).

The second draft would have the General Assemby authorize the Secretary-General to appropriate $11 million for the International Tribunal on war crimes in the former Yugoslavia for 1994. By the third draft, the Secretary-General would be authorized to commit $3.7 million for the United Nations Observer Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) from 1 April to 10 May, and another $3.7 million monthly from then until the end of July.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1621
12 April 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Bosnian Serbs halt shelling of Gorazde after NATO air strikes on Sunday and Monday; Bosnian Government forces open fire on Serb positions without provocation, says UNPROFOR.

+ Special Representative for Rwanda unable to negotiate cease-fire between Government and RPF amid chaos in Kigali; parties promise to cooperate with UNAMIR evacuation of civilians.

+ Head of Special Mission to Afghanistan deplores outbreak of fighting in Kabul after ten-day cease-fire; says United Nations will persevere with efforts to bring about peace.

+ Secretary-General begins two-day visit to Germany after chairing ACC meeting in Geneva.

+ Security Council, in letter to Secretary-General, stresses need for agreement on implementation of confidence-building measures for Cyprus by end of April.

+ Special Envoy Vance to meet at Headquarters with delegations from former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece in effort to resolve differences between two countries

+ WHO reports no cases of poliomyelitis in 141 countries in 1993; seeks to eradicate disease worldwide by year 2000.

* * *

Bosnian Serb guns around the safe area of Gorazde were silent today, but Bosnian Government forces fired mortars against Serb positions "without provocation," according to a United Nations spokesman. On Sunday and Monday, at the request of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), aircraft belonging to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) bombed Bosnian Serb forces shelling the city.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

Meanwhile, Bosnian Serb troops set up check-points around Sarajevo, impeding the movement of UNPROFOR personnel, the spokesman continued. They also mined three storage sites where weapons had been collected by UNPROFOR. At the same time, United Nations military observers were encountering difficulties throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, including restrictions on movement and problems with communications.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, today had a series of meetings in Sarajevo with a view to resolving the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He met with UNPROFOR Commanders, the Envoys of the Russian Federation and the United States, the Bosnian President and the NATO Commander in the region, and then departed for Zagreb.

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Despite intensive efforts, Special Representative Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh has been unable to negotiate a cease-fire agreement between the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) because of the chaotic situation in Kigali. However, the two parties have promised the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) that they will cooperate with the final phase of the evacuation of civilians from the country, according to a United Nations spokesman. He noted that the Security Council was keeping the status and mandate of the Mission under close consideration.

Today, RPF forces attacking Kigali linked up with some 600 of their troops already in the city, and there were reports of random violence and looting. Meanwhile, 260 UNAMIR peace-keepers from Ghana were pinned down -- but not immediately endangered -- by RPF shelling of the city of Byumba, the spokesman said.

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs yesterday convened a meeting of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in Geneva to prepare contingency plans for a return to Rwanda. Relief agencies have been strengthening their capabilities in neighbouring countries so that they will be ready to respond when the situation there improves.

* * *

The head of the Secretary-General's Special Mission to Afghanistan, Mahmoud Mestiri, today deplored the resumption of fighting in Kabul after a ten-day cease fire. Addressing a rally of Afghan refugees in Peshawar, he said the tragic news would only give new urgency to United Nations efforts to bring peace.

The Special Mission has been in Peshawar for the past four days hearing the views of a wide range of Afghans on how the Organization can best aid national reconciliation and reconstruction. On Saturday, the Mission will begin its third visit to Afghanistan with meetings in Mazar-i-Sharif, Herat and Bamiyan.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today concluded his visit to Geneva and departed for Bonn, where he was due to meet with the German Foreign Minister and the President of the Bundestag. The Secretary-General will be in Germany for two days, during which he will also meet with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and will then pay a three-day visit to Spain.

Earlier today, the Secretary-General chaired the closing session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). During its two-day meeting, the Committee discussed the relationship between peace-keeping and emergency operations; the economic and social activities of the United Nations and the forthcoming Agenda for Development; follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED); and the issue of providing resources for development and "donor fatigue."

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The Security Council has said it fully supports the Secretary-General's efforts to promote an agreement on implementation of a package of confidence-building measures for Cyprus. However, in a letter from its President to the Secretary-General dated 11 April, the Council expressed concern that not enough progress had been made on key issues, and stressed the need for the parties to reach an agreement by the end of the month.

The Council noted that the Greek Cypriot leader was ready to accept the ideas on implementation put forward on 21 March, if the Turkish Cypriot leader did likewise. It said the coming weeks would provide an important test of their commitment to making progress towards an overall settlement.

The package of confidence-building measures includes the reopening of the fenced area of Varosha and of Nicosia International Airport. In his reports to the Council dated 4 April, the Secretary-General stressed that the package and the ideas on implementation offered real benefits to both Cypriot parties.

* * *

Special Envoy Cyrus Vance will meet tomorrow at Headquarters with a delegation from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and on Thursday with a delegation from Greece, with a view to resolving the differences between the two countries, a United Nations spokesman announced today. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 11 April, the President of the Security Council expressed support for efforts in that regard. He also expressed the hope that the two countries would cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and Mr. Vance.

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A record 141 countries reported no cases of poliomyelitis last year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Less than 8,000 cases were registered in 46 other countries, down from almost 16,000 cases in 58 countries in 1992. Those figures were contained in the WHO's report on "Progress Towards the Global Elimination of Poliomyelitis," which was released on Friday.

In 1988, the World Health Assembly launched an initiative to eradicate the disease by the year 2000. Since 1991, the western hemisphere has reported no cases of paralytic poliomyelitis. Meanwhile, the disease was absent or occurred at very low levels in western and central Europe, north Africa, southern and eastern Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and the western Pacific. However, the eastern Mediterranean region reported a 24 per cent rise in polio cases last year.

"The WHO's initiative to eradicate poliomyelitis worldwide -- the first viral disease to be wiped out after smallpox -- is well under way," said Dr. Jong Wook Lee, Director of the Global Programme for Vaccines. The Organization had received strong support from the international community and the United Nations system, he added.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

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13 April 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General and German Chancellor, meeting in Bonn, stress need for involvement of United States and Russian Federation in restarting peace process in former Yugoslavia.

+ Secretary-General discusses situation in Rwanda and role of UNAMIR with Belgian Foreign Minister; Special Representative meets with Rwandese Defence Minister and RPF as efforts to end violence continue.

+ Special Representative Akashi and UNPROFOR Commander meet with Serbian President in effort to resume peace talks in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Co-Chairmen of International Conference to meet with Bosnian Serb leader.

+ Condemning bomb attack on bus in Hadera, Secretary-General urges Israeli Government and PLO to continue talks and implement Declaration of Principles without delay.

+ President of Mozambique announces country's first multi-party elections to be held on 27 and 28 October.

+ Working group on military aspects of possible peace-keeping deployment in Abkhazia, Georgia, meets in Geneva.

+ IAEA participates in first joint expedition to assess radioactivity levels in seas around Japan and Korean Peninsula.

* * *

Continuing his visit to Bonn, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today with Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl and discussed, among other issues, the possibility of permanent membership of the Security Council for Germany and cooperation between that country and the United Nations. Regarding the former Yugoslavia, they both stressed the need for the active involvement of the United States and the Russian Federation in restarting the peace process.

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Yesterday, the Secretary-General met with Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and discussed the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in Gorazde, and the question of post-war reconstruction in the former Yugoslavia. Dr. Kinkel expressed full support for the actions taken by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met last night in Bonn with Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes to discuss the situation in Rwanda, according to a United Nations spokesman. In particular, they discussed the role of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) and the problem of Burundian refugees there. Mr. Claes asked the Secretary-General to investigate the murder of 10 Belgian peace-keepers in Kigali on 7 April. The Secretary-General said he would report to the Security Council on the situation as soon as possible. Meanwhile, Special Representative Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh continued his efforts to end the violence, and met today with Rwanda's Defence Minister and representatives of the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF).

RPF forces continued their advance into Kigali today, while UNAMIR peace-keepers consolidated their positions in the city and the demilitarized zone, the spokesman said. The peace-keepers were doing all they could to aid those in need, and were sharing their dwindling supplies with thousands of people seeking refuge from the fighting. The 260 peace-keepers from Ghana who had been trapped yesterday in Byumba left that city without suffering any casualties and rejoined the rest of their battalion in the demilitarized zone.

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Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and the Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), General Bertrand de Sauville de Lapresle, met today in Belgrade with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. In what a United Nations spokesman termed "a good meeting," they discussed the resumption of the negotiating process in the former Yugoslavia. Meanwhile, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, were due to meet in Pale with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

The spokesman went on to report that Bosnian Serb authorities were detaining 11 French relief workers accused of smuggling ammunition, although an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) representative had been allowed to visit them. Meanwhile, the situation of the United Nations military observers in Bosnia and Herzegovina was mixed; those in Pale had been advised not to move around, but were not being prevented from doing so, while those in Banja Luka had been confined to their quarters. A Dutch military observer was still missing and there was no indication as to his whereabouts.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today strongly condemned the bomb attack on a passenger bus in Hadera, Israel, in which six Israeli civilians were killed and many more were injured. Also condemning the recent escalation of violence, he urged the Israeli Government and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to continue talks and to implement the Declaration of Principles without delay.

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President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique has announced that his country will hold its first multi-party elections on 27 and 28 October. The elections will be held in accordance with the Electoral Law enacted following the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique. Security Council President Colin Keating (New Zealand) told correspondents last night that the elections would be very important for peace in Mozambique.

In February, the Council said an elected government should assume office in Mozambique by the end of November. It also asked the Secretary-General to prepare a timetable for completion of the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ).

* * *

A working group on military aspects of a possible peace-keeping deployment in Abkhazia, Georgia, met yesterday in Geneva under the chairmanship of Special Envoy Edouard Brunner, according to a United Nations spokesman. Representatives from the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, and observers from the Russian Federation and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), are attending the meeting, which is expected to last until Friday.

In a Presidential statement last Friday, the Security Council stressed the need for progress on a political settlement in the next round of talks between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, so that it might consider establishing a peace-keeping force. The Council also supported the deployment of an extra 50 military observers with the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) if the Secretary-General considered that conditions on the ground were appropriate.

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The first joint expedition to assess radioactivity levels in the seas around Japan and the Korean Peninsula, where nuclear waste has been dumped by the former Soviet Union and the Russian Federation, will end on 16 April. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), scientists from Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the Agency's Marine Environment Laboratory are taking part in the month-long expedition.

Preliminary measurements have found very low concentrations of caesium 137, a major radionuclide in sea water and sediments. Detailed analysis of samples will be performed and the results published within 12 months. Further collaborative studies are planned for other sea areas where nuclear waste has been dumped.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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14 April 1994

THURSDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations protests mistreatment of peace-keepers by Bosnian Serbs; stresses importance of resuming peace talks in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Secretary-General arrives in Spain for three-day visit; reiterates readiness to seek NATO air support for peace-keepers in danger in former Yugoslavia.

+ Member States pledge some 28,000 troops and specialists to new United Nations standby arrangements for peace-keeping; total expected to soon reach 70,000 as further commitments finalized.

+ General Assembly authorizes Secretary-General to commit nearly $90 million to finance UNPROFOR, MINURSO and International Tribunal for former Yugoslavia.

+ Two United States helicopters shot down in northern Iraq, with 25 casualties; United Nations says its personnel were not involved in incident.

+ FAO says global fishing sector will suffer disaster if industrial fleets are not controlled; calls for sustainable catch targets.

+ Committee against Torture to review reports by Switzerland, Nepal, Greece and Israel at twelfth session in Geneva from 18 to 29 April.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman today expressed serious concern about Bosnian Serb mistreatment of peace-keepers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, saying a pattern of "totally unacceptable conduct" had emerged. Fifteen Canadian peace-keepers manning an observation post near Aliza were detained by Bosnian Serbs today, and were being held incommunicado, he said. Special Representative Yasushi Asashi intended to protest the incident to Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

Meanwhile, Bosnian Serbs in a tank had approached French peace-keepers in Krizoglavci and demanded their weapons, threatening to take them by force, the spokesman continued. The French had refused to hand over the weapons, resulting in a stand-off that was continuing. Noting that the Bosnian Serb tank was violating the Sarajevo exclusion zone, the spokesman warned that "measures" might be taken to resolve the situation.

The Bosnian Serbs had made a very bad error if they thought the United Nations was at war with, or hostile to, them, the spokesman went on to say. He stressed that the Organization's main goal in Bosnia and Herzegovina was the resumption of peace negotiations.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today began a three-day official visit to Spain by meeting with the country's Foreign Minister. He later attended a private luncheon offered by the King and Queen of Spain. Before travelling to that country from Bonn, the Secretary-General met with Germany's Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development.

In remarks to correspondents this morning, the Secretary-General expressed hope that the deteriorating situations in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda could be contained. He stressed that the United Nations had a responsibility to protect its peace-keepers, and that he would not hesitate to ask the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for air support when they were in danger in the former Yugoslavia. The Organization did not take positions in favour of, or against, any parties, he added.

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To date, Member States have pledged more than 28,000 troops and specialists towards the new United Nations standby arrangements for peace-keeping, according to Colonel Gérard Gambiez of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. Colonel Gambiez was appointed by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali last year to head the team which has negotiated the agreements for the standby arrangements. He told correspondents at Headquaters today that the number of personnel available would soon grow to 70,000 as Member States finalized their commitments.

The Secretary-General had identified a need for the system of standby arrangements to meet increasing peace-keeping demands, Colonel Gambiez noted. The arrangements would facilitate the planning, implementation and effectiveness of peace-keeping operations. The personnel and resources provided would remain on standby in their home countries, and would be ready for deployment at short notice. Member States could contribute military units, specialized personnel, materials and equipment, as well as such services as hospitals, communications systems and strategic airlifts, he said.

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The General Assembly today authorized the Secretary-General to commit some $90 million to finance two United Nations missions and the International War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. It took those actions by adopting, without a vote, drafts recommended by the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary).

The Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to commit almost $16 million gross a month to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), from 1 April to 31 July. That amount will cover the costs of the extra 3,660 military personnel provided for in Security Council resolution 908 (1994). The Assembly authorized him to commit $3.7 million for the United Nations Observer Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) from 1 April to 10 May, and another $3.7 million monthly from then until the end of July, with the agreement of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

The Secretary-General was also authorized to appropriate $11 million for the International Tribunal for 1994. That amount includes $5.6 million authorized by the Assembly last December.

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Two helicopters were shot down in northern Iraq today, resulting in around 25 fatalities, according to a United Nations spokesman. Contrary to some reports, neither the helicopters nor the personnel on board belonged to the United Nations, although the circumstances of the incident were unclear, he said.

It appeared that the helicopters belonged to the United States, and that they were carrying officials from the Military Coordination Centre (MCC) to a meeting with a United Nations official in the area, the spokesman went on to say. The MCC is part of "Operation Provide Comfort," which was established by France, the United Kingdom and the United States to aid Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq.

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If industrial fishing fleets are not controlled, the entire marine fishing sector will suffer disastrous social and economic consequences, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has warned. In two reports issued yesterday, the FAO said coastal communities in developing countries would face food shortages without regulations to tackle overfishing. Large subsidized fleets from industrialized nations had already over-exploited most of the world's major fisheries and seriously depleted valuable species.

Although fleets trawling waters far from home operated under fishing agreements, they created a serious threat to the resources and economies of traditional fishing societies, the FAO said. It urged a precautionary approach to fisheries management, including a reduction in fleet sizes and catch targets, as well as the adoption of thresholds that were more likely to sustain fish stocks.

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The Committee against Torture will hold its twelfth session in Geneva from 18 to 29 April, during which it will review the measures taken by Switzerland, Nepal, Greece and Israel to prevent and punish acts of torture. The four States will present reports on how they apply the rights and guarantees enshrined in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Committee will also examine information indicating that torture is being systematically practised in a State party to the Convention, as well as claims by individuals that they have been victims of torture.

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Last night's action follows an Agreement signed by Chad and Libya on 4 April, pursuant to a Judgment of the International Court of Justice settling a border dispute between the two countries. The two countries agreed that the withdrawal of Libyan administration and troops would begin today, under the supervision of a team of 25 Chadian officers, 25 Libyan officers and United Nations observers. The operations are due to end on 30 May, when the territory will be officially handed over to Chad.

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In another meeting last night, the Security Council demanded that all parties, and in particular the Bosnian Serbs, allow the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) unimpeded freedom of movement and refrain from any actions which might threaten the safety of UNPROFOR personnel.

In a statement read out by its President, Colin Keating (New Zealand), the Council condemned recent incidents in Bosnia and Herzegovina affecting the safety and freedom of movement of UNPROFOR personnel. Saying the incidents clearly violated binding resolutions, it warned those responsible of the serious consequences of their actions. The Council called on all parties to work closely with UNPROFOR, to cease all hostilities and to cooperate fully in efforts to achieve peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Serbs continued to hold fifteen Canadian peace-keepers detained yesterday and a Dutch military observer was still missing in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a United Nations spokesman said today. However, the Bosnian Serb tank which had confronted French peace-keepers yesterday had withdrawn. There was considerable fighting around Gorazde today, and Bosnian Serb forces made fresh advances to the east and south-east of the town. Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, met today with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in Pale as efforts to resolve the situation continued.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is deploying emergency teams to help thousands of people fleeing the fighting in Rwanda. High Commissioner Sadako Ogata has authorized the release of $5 million from the emergency fund to airlift relief supplies to the region. Meanwhile, the World Food Programme (WFP) has three months worth of contingency stocks on hand and relief supplies are being assembled for Burundi and Tanzania. An 11-member emergency team is scheduled to depart from Geneva tomorrow for Zaire and another team is ready to go to Tanzania.

Meanwhile, concern for UNHCR's Rwandan staff members has increased after two were killed and two others seriously wounded in the continuing violence. Thirty-one local staff members were in the region before the fighting broke out and have since been distributing limited food stocks in the Butare and Kigali districts. A joint team from the UNHCR, the WFP and the United Nations

(more)

Development Programme (UNDP) is exploring the possibility of transporting food supplies into Butare, where the situation is fairly stable. Half the Burundi refugees in Rwanda are living in nine UNHCR camps in the region.

The United Nations Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) has continued to assist the evacuation of European and other foreign nationals, including African students from a United Nations-sponsored statistical school in Kigali. The Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) and the Government of Rwanda have agreed not to interfere with the evacuation process, which is taking longer than expected, according to a United Nations spokesman. UNAMIR is also trying to provide humanitarian assitance to nearly 14,000 refugees seeking shelter at United Nations positions in the capital. Supplies have been airlifted into Kigali and the food and water situation has improved in the last two days.

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The Secretary-General's Special Mission to Afghanistan will tomorrow begin its third visit to that country with meetings in Mazar-i-Sharif, Sheberghan, Herat and Bamiyan. The head of the Mission, Mahmoud Mestiri, has already had meetings with President Rabbani, Prime Minister Hekmatyar and other leaders to discuss ways of ending the conflict in Afghanistan.

A Mission spokesman today expressed continuing concern about the fighting in Kabul, which resumed recently after a ten-day cease-fire, and elsewhere in the country. He stressed that the United Nations had not taken positions, or made any judgements, on the issues raised during its consultations.

The Special Mission has a mandate to hear the views of a wide range of Afghans on how the United Nations can best aid national reconciliation and reconstruction. It will continue its work in the coming weeks, and then present its findings and recommendations to the Secretary-General.

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yesterday, he said the Council was particularly disturbed that Serb forces had pursued aggressive military action against Gorazde simultaneously with cease-fire negotiations. He also expressed support for the actions taken by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to deal with the situation, and reminded those concerned of the consequences under Council resolutions if aggressive action continued.

The Council President expressed support for diplomatic efforts to achieve a cease-fire, citing the talks being held by the Russian Foreign Minister and the efforts of the United States Special Envoy and the European Union. He urged the leadership in Belgrade and the Bosnian Serbs to participate in those discussions in good faith with a view to settling the conflict.

The Bosnian Serbs today continued their attacks on Gorazde even though Bosnian Government resistance has collapsed, subjecting the town to indiscriminiate shelling and sniper fire. A United Nations spokesman said civilians were being targeted intentionally, and casualties were high as there was no shelter available. More than 300 people have been killed, and almost 1,100 wounded, since the latest round of fighting began on 28 March, nearly half of which were women and children.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today warned that a humanitarian catastrophe was unfolding by the hour in Gorazde, saying that every one of the 65,000 people in the town was in great danger. "The shelling of civilians in Gorazde must stop immediately," said High Commissioner Sadako Ogata. "The shameful attacks on Gorazde are in blatant disregard of all humanitarian principles and are an affront to civilized people everywhere."

An estimated 30,000 people have recently fled to Gorazde from outlying areas, many reporting that their villages had been burned to the ground. According to the UNHCR, there is no shelter available for the refugees, as more than half of the town's buildings had been damaged or destroyed even before the latest fighting began. The agency has been unable to get an aid convoy or airdrops into Gorazde since 22 March, and it is too dangerous to distribute the limited relief supplies remaining there.

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The Commission of Experts on the former Yugoslavia has found that crimes against humanity commited in Prijedor since 1992 probably qualify as genocide. Concluding a four-day meeting in Geneva on Friday, the Commission said that appallingly high numbers of people had been raped, tortured, murdered and sexually assaulted in Prijedor. It also found that civilians had been deliberately attacked in and around Sarajevo since April 1992, and in Dubrovnik in December 1991. In addition, there had been wanton destruction in the Medak Pocket in September 1993. The Commission noted that many of the human rights violations commited in the former Yugoslavia could be prosecuted before the International Criminal Tribunal.

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The Commission was established in October 1992 to report to the Secretary-General on grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and other violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. It is due to report to him on 2 May.

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The Human Rights Commission's Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Bacre Waly Ndiaye, has expressed shock at the violence in Rwanda. Thousands of civilians have been killed, particularly in Kigali, since the death of the country's President, Juvenal Habyarimana, on 6 April. Those said to be responsible include the Presidential Guard and other units of the Armed Forces, members of the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) and bands of armed civilians.

The Special Rapporteur noted that many of the victims had been killed simply for being Tutsis or for having opposed the late President. Among the victims were five Government ministers, including the Prime Minister and her three children, and 20 Roman Catholic nuns and priests. He also deplored the killing of Belgian peace-keepers with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) as well as Rwandans working for international agencies in Kigali.

A United Nations spokesman today announced that the fighting was continuing in Rwanda, and that UNAMIR had been unable to arrange a cease-fire because of the difficult conditions set by the Government and RPF.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has urged all South Africans to eschew violence and to participate in the upcoming elections. In a report to the Security Council dated 14 April, he said intimidation and violence should not be allowed to prevent South Africa from becoming a non-racial, democratic and united country. He expressed particular concern about opposition to the electoral process from the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), especially in Natal/KwaZulu, and from the extreme right wing.

The Secretary-General noted that the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) had experienced problems in preparing for the elections. There had been delays in deploying field staff and identifying voting sites, and in supplying critical electoral equipment. Moreover, the South African Government and its security departments had not provided all the help needed to prepare a comprehensive contingency plan for security. He added that the National Peace-Keeping Force, which was to have been 10,000 strong, would not be able to deploy more than 4,000 personnel.

However, the Secretary-General went on to say that all the United Nations observers and support staff called for in his last report had already been deployed. He pledged that with its expanded mandate to observe the elections, the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) would continue to work for peace and democracy in South Africa.

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The Security Council has demanded an immediate end to hostilities in Angola and condemned any actions which threaten the delivery of humanitarian assistance there. In a letter from its President to the Secretary-General dated 14 April, the Council expressed deep concern at the continued military offensive in that country and the resulting impact on civilians.

The Council reiterated the need for a prompt and successful conclusion to the peace talks in Lusaka between the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), and said it would monitor them carefully. It said the parties should approach the remaining issues with realism and the necessary political will, and within the framework of the Peace Accords. The Council also reaffirmed its readiness to consider further action in accordance with its resolutions, depending on progress towards full implementation of the Accords.

In his report to the Council dated 31 March, the Secretary-General said the Lusaka talks had stalled on the issue of UNITA's participation in State affairs. He noted, however, that the parties had already reached agreement on 12 of the 18 points relating to national reconciliation.

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General Assembly President S.R. Insanally (Guyana) will leave New York tomorrow for a seven-day official visit to Barbados. The President is one of 11 members of the Eminent Persons Group invited by the Government of Barbados to examine the concept of sustainable development of small island developing States. The Group will be meeting on 21 and 22 April, in conjunction with the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in Bridgetown from 25 April to 6 May.

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A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) staff member was killed today when gunmen fired on a plane flying into Somalia on a cross-border feeding operation. Alhadji Kebba Sanneh, a 53-year old Gambian national, was hit by a burst of gunfire shortly after the plane touched down at an airfield near the Kenyan border. Four other people on the plane escaped unhurt.

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United Nations

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General asks NATO to authorize use of air strikes in response to attacks against civilians in safe areas in Bosnia and Herzogovina; Special Envoy Akashi says he will not meet with Bosnian Serb leader without cease-fire in Gorazde and release of detained United Nations personnel.

+ Secretary-General hails breakthrough agreement on upcoming elections between President de Klerk, ANC leader Mandela and Chief Buthelezi.

+ Georgian and Abkhaz delegations meet in Geneva, under chairmanship of Special Envoy Brunner, to discuss political and constitutional issues of comprehensive settlement of conflict.

+ Special Commission completes destruction of Iraq's bulk stocks of chemical warfare agents and precursor chemicals.

+ Secretary-General appoints Joseph Connor, United States national, as Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management from 1 May; appoints Carlos Fortin of Chile as Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to authorize the use of air strikes against artillery, mortar positions or tanks attacking civilians in safe areas in Bosnia and Herzogovina. In a letter to NATO Secretary-General Manfred Wörner, Mr. Boutros-Ghali noted that permission for such air strikes had already been given regarding Sarajevo and said that the tragic events in Gorazde demonstrated the need for the NATO Council to take a similar decision on the other safe areas.

The Secretary-General had taken that initiative in the belief that prior approval by the NATO Council would shorten the response time for air strikes, according to a United Nations spokesman. The request would also test the political will of NATO members regarding the use of air strikes to protect the safe areas, he added.

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For information media--not an official record

In a related development, Special Envoy Yasushi Akashi yesterday said that further meetings with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic would not be fruitful. In a letter to Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Mr. Akashi noted that Gorazde was still being shelled very heavily despite Mr. Karadzic's repeated commitments to a cease-fire, and said that United Nations premises were being deliberately targeted in the attacks. Mr. Akashi went on to say that while he still believed in dialogue, he would not meet with the Bosnian Serb leader and President Milosevic until there was a total cease-fire in and around Gorazde and United Nations personnel detained by the Bosnian Serbs were released.

Meanwhile in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a large number of Bosnian Serbs soldiers today seized anti-aircraft guns being guarded by French troops from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) within the Sarajevo exclusion zone.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the breakthrough agreement reached today between Frederik Willem de Klerk, President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Chief Minister of KwaZulu and President of the Inkhata Freedom Party. The Secretary-General congratulated them on the agreement, which deals with participation by the major parties in the upcoming democratic elections. He hoped that it would ensure that the elections would take place in calm and peaceful conditions.

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A meeting on political and constitutional issues of a comprehensive settlement of the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict began today in Geneva under the chairmanship of Special Envoy Edouard Brunner. In addition to the delegations from the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, representatives from the Russian Federation and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) are attending the meeting, which is expected to last three days.

The meeting is being held in accordance with the Declaration on measures for a political settlement of the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict, which was signed by the two parties on 4 April. Meetings have already been held to discuss issues relating to refugees and displaced persons, and military aspects of a possible peace-keeping operation in Abkhazia. In a Presidential statement on 8 April, the Security Council stressed the need for progress on a political settlement in the next round of talks between the two sides, so that it might consider establishing such a force.

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The Special Commission on the disarmement of Iraq has completed the destruction of the country's bulk stocks of chemical warfare agents and

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precursor chemicals. The Commission's Chemical Destruction Group destroyed the remaining stocks of three precursor chemicals -- white phosphorous, toluene and hydrogen fluoride -- and some mustard-filled artillery shells.

The Group is now concentrating on the destruction of chemical weapons production equipment which has been collected at the Muthanna site. The Commission will then send a team of experts to survey the site, using sensors to ensure that all relevant items have been destroyed and that no chemical hazards remain there. Another team, to be led by the Chairman of the Chemical Weapons Destruction Advisory Panel, will conduct a final inspection and formally hand the site back to the Iraqi authorities.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Joseph E. Connor, a United States national, as Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, effective 1 May. Mr. Connor will be responsible to the Secretary-General for all financial and personnel matters and for ensuring an integrated approach to managerial issues within the Secretariat. He is currently a Distinguished Professor at the Georgetown University School of Business and was Chairman of Price Waterhouse World Firm until 1993.

The Secretary-General has also appointed Carlos Fortin, a Chilean national, as Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) pending the appointment of a new Secretary-General of the Conference.

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